Regional imbalances in industrial development

1282. SHRI RAMACHAND- I RAN PILLAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what measures Government pro- pose to take *to* remove the existing ! regional imbalances in the matter of industrial development of the coun- try ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.J. KURIEN) ; For promoting industrialisation of backward areas in an effective manner [Government introduced a Growth Centre Scheme in June, 1988. The Growth Centres which would be set up during the VIII Five Year Plan would be provided with all basic infrastructural facilities : like power, water, telecommunica- tion, banks etc. so as to attract industries to these areas. These would be developed at a cost of Rs. 25—30 crores each to be funded jointly by the Central Government, State Government and All India Financial Institutions.

Financial crisis in BHEL

1283. DR. N. THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) is facing any crisis ;

(b) if so, what are the details therefor ; and

(c) what steps are taken to handle the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUS- TRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) to (c) BHEL at the moment has a lean order book, which is liefely to affect its profitability and capacity ati lisation. Large outstandings for long durations from customers is of concern in financial management of the Company. The outstandings currently are Rs. 1180 crores approximately.

BHEL is taking the following steps to improve the situation : —

(i) Making vigorous efforts to realise its dues from customeers;

(ii) Increase exports (deemed and physical) ;

(iii) Formulating bids to customers with consortium arrangements to tide over the paucity of orders;

(iv) Diversification into new areas of business.

Proposal for delicensing of industries by Japanese delegation

1284. SHRI MENTAY PAD- MANABHAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in The Hindu dated the 31st January, 1992, captioned "Japanese want more industries delicensed", if so,what were the industries that the Japanese industrial delegation proposed for delicensing; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Japanese delegation insisted on delinking of repatriation of dividend from export earning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN) : (a) and (b) Alongwith the interest and appreciation generated amongst foreign investors about the recent economic liberalisations, suggestions for further liberalisations, have also been received from various countries, potential investors and other interested parties. Some members of the Japanese Economic Mission, which, visited India in January, 1992, suggested further delicensing in are as where Japanese companies possessed relatively advanced technolo-